

## **Making Science Accessible to Communities: New Tools and Resources to Help Communities Understand and Prioritize Risks**

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Recent studies have confirmed air toxics as a significant contributor to community risk. But community efforts to understand and address this concern have been hampered by the lack of adequate information on risks at the community level. In response to this need, the Office of Pollution Prevention and Toxics has taken steps to develop innovative new tools and resources to help communities identify and address toxic risks at the local level. This poster will describe these tools and resources and explain how they can be used in communities. Tools described will include the recently published Community Air Screening How To Manual, the Design for Environment Community Outreach Program, and the Internet Geographic Exposure Modeling System (IGEMS). The Community Air Screening Manual is a step-by-step guide to help a community organize a partnership, identify all sources, estimate aggregate concentrations from all sources in community air, and use risk information to prioritize these concentrations and sources. This manual allows a community to use risk science to turn existing data into practical, community specific risk information needed to set clear community priorities. The Design for Environment Community Outreach program brings the technical resources of the Design for Environment program to communities to help them find practical solutions to environmental concerns caused by small community businesses, such as auto body refinishers and printers. IGEMS makes a suite of exposure modeling tools accessible to communities over the internet, allowing communities to use exposure- and risk-based information to conduct screening exercises to identify priorities. All of these tools are innovation solutions designed to build the capacity of communities to understand and improve their local environments.